

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 01787 040956Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-07 ERDA-05 IO-13 /080 W
-----041009Z 019067 /11

R 040739Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2461
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1787

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, KS
SUBJECT: ROK REACTION TO NEWS THAT U.S. CONSIDERED A-BOMB USE IN
KOREAN WAR

REF: STATE A-4116 (8/16/76)

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF MARCH 3, MOFA AMERICAN
AFFAIRS DIVISION I CHIEF, YI SUNG-GON COMMENTED ON HEADLINES
IN ROK PAPERS MARCH 1 TO EFFECT FORMERLY SECRET U.S.
DOCUMENTS REVEALED U.S. CONSIDERED USE OF ATOMIC BOMBS
SIX TIMES DURING KOREAN WAR. YI NOTED THAT INFORMATION
FOR PRESS STORIES HAD BEEN EXTRACTED FROM "FOREIGN RELATIONS
OF THE U.S. 1950, VOLSME 7, KOREA", REPORTEDLY PUBLISHED
FEBRUARY 27, 1977, BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT. YI SAID THAT
HE PRESUMED THAT VOLUME 7 DID NOT CONTAIN CORRESPONDENCE
ON THIS SUBJECT BETWEEN THEN ROK PRESIDENT SYGMANN RHEE AND
PRESIDENT TURMAN IN JANUARY 1951 (REFERENCE). YI
SAID HE HAD SENT A TELEGRAM TO ROK EMBASSY WASHINGTON
SEEKING CLARIFICATION THIS POINT.

2. EMBOFF NOTED THAT PRESS ACCOUNTS APPEARED TO REFER
SOLELY TO INTERNAL U.S. DOCUMENTS.

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 01787 040956Z

3. ROK PRESS GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO PUBLICATION OF
KOREAN WAR RELATED DOCUMENTS. CONSIDERATION OF NUCLEAR
BOMB USE WAS HEADLINED IN MOST NEWSPAPERS BUT STORIES
ALSO REFERRED TO CO COMMENTS IN TELEGRAMS FROM EMBASSY
SEOUL TO DEPARTMENT ABOUT ASMBASSADOR MUCCIO'S EFFORTS
TO ENCOURAGE PRESIDENT RHEE NOT TO ABANDON SEOUL AS
NORTH KOREA'S ARMY BEGAN BREAKING THROUGH NORTH OF THE

CITY, AND DESCRIPTION OF RHEE'S MANNER DURING MEETINGS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION
THAT EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN PRESIDENT RHEE AND
PRESIDENT TRUMAN MENTIONED ABOVE (SEOUL A-191,
NOVEMBER 26, 1976) WAS NOT PUBLISHED. WE NOTE THAT
RHEE-TRUMAN EXCHANGE WAS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLICATION IN
1951 EDITION OF VOLUME 7, VICE 1950 EDITION.
STERN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DOCUMENTS, PRESS COMMENTS, NEWS LEAKS, NUCLEAR BOMBS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL01787
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770074-1328
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770392/aaaadcxt.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 12b4adbd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE A-4116
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3205696
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROK REACTION TO NEWS THAT U.S. CONSIDERED A-BOMB USE IN KOREAN WAR
TAGS: PFOR, US, KS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/12b4adbd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
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22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009